

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3499
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
DWINDLING POPULATION OF LION
Pratapsinh Shri Chauhan Prabhatsinh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether population of Lion is decreasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of Lion population during the last two census and the current census, State-wise including Gir Lion;
- (d) whether the Government has launched any Lion Project to protect Lion population in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the funds spent on the project since its inception?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) No, Sir. The population of Lion is not decreasing in the country. On the contrary, it has increased. Lions are found in Gir forests of Gujarat. As per the estimation carried out during 2001 and 2005, the population of Lions in Gir forests were 327 and 359+ 10 respectively.

(d)&(e) Central Government has not launched any dedicated Project on Lion. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (erstwhile Scheme of 'Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries'), the Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to the State Government of Gujarat for various activities aimed at conservation of Lion and its habitats. Details of fund released to the Protected Areas of Gujarat, that harbour Lions, under the Scheme during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of Sanctuaries	Year
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	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
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Gir Sanctuary	37.40	40.00	32.00
Mitiyala Sanctuary	15.68	8.00	2.70
Paniya Sanctuary	7.70	12.00	4.94